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Parade in Newark: fireworks, floats and lots of fun

NEWARK — Themed, "Our Legacy Must Be Continued," The African-American Heritage Parade and Festival, beginning on May 28 at Weequahic Park in Newark, kicks off with fireworks, and a Lawn Dance Party with a special Radio D.J. guest.

This parade with 100 participating groups starts at noon May 30 at Broad Street and Lincoln Park.

A trio of Camels (for the first time) will join the march along Newark's revitalized Broad Street to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, as will dozens of floats and world class drum and bugle corps, hailing from every county in the State and as far away as Washington DC.

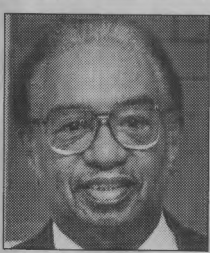
The theme, "Our Legacy... Must Be Continued," signifies and represents the

long history if the parade, which dates back to the first Black Heritage Day Parade in 1976 and its roots in the Crusus Attucks Parade of 1967 through 1976. "This year celebration is especially important because it places emphasis on our past journeys," said parade chairman Donald Bernard Sr. "Our youth need to see and feel the value of our past to overcome many obstacles and gain a positive perspective for their future."

"Each year we pay particular attention to address the needs of the total family. We realize that the fun and excitement afforded to our children touches that part of them that allows them to really be who they are. Soft and tender is the heart of a child. So when we give them the opportunity to ride the Ferris Wheel, to climb on a pony or a

camel, they experience memories that will last them for the rest of their lives," Bernard said.

This year's Grand Marshal will be longtime community activist, John A. Thomas who spearheaded the first African-American Parade in 1960 and was one of the founders of the Crusus Attucks Society. Renowned educator Dr. F. Alma Flagg will serve as this year's Deputy Grand Marshal and retired Col. Eugene Scott, organizer of the Bud Billingsley Parade/America's largest and oldest black parade held annually in Chicago will also be honored. The legendary Hal Jackson, talk show host on WFLS-FM radio who is celebrating his 60th anniversary in radio, will communicate the four hour parade from Broad Street over the FM airwaves.



Chairman John A. Thomas



Retired Col. Eugene Scott

Statewide campaign struggles to keep black infants alive



Asst. Commissioner Dr. Henry Spring discusses the need to alert and educate African American women why their infants are 2 1/2 times more likely to die than a white baby.

By Lucy Sanchez
Staff Writer

TRENTON — On May 18, 1999 Christine Kane, the new Commissioner of the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services kicked off the statewide Black Infant Mortality Reduction cam-

paign. The campaign, called "Black Infants/Better Survival (BIBS)" was initiated in response to national and statewide statistics which show that black infants are more than twice as likely as white infants to die before their first birthdays.

The two-year, \$1 million public

awareness campaign is the first state in the nation to address the targeted issue of black infant mortality. Grant stated, "When a black infant dies, it's not a black problem, it's everyone's problem." Although the commissioner stated New Jersey has been aware of the risk associated with African-American women for years she said it's been difficult to filter the urgency into the communities.

The assistant commissioner, Dr. Henry Spring stated there's something else other than the socio-economic status, education level, age, substance abuse and unhealthy habits that are contributing to the disproportionate rate of black babies dying. "If you are an affluent black woman with full access to quality care and you compare yourself to a white woman, your risk is still two and a half times higher, which says there's something about being a black woman in America," stated Spring.

The assistant commissioner stated this campaign is often challenging because they are dealing with the issue of race, which he noted often brings fear, hesitation and discomfort. "One of the people get over the issue of race and embrace the issue it once again benefit society as a whole."

Rhonda Wise, one of the three consultants in the awareness campaign will be overseeing the community education component. Wise says that the black community usually doesn't "stop to get outraged" when their infants die.

often not talked about and remains unquestioned. Wise, a newly expecting mother herself, has strategically planned grassroots methods to reach as many women as possible. She said the most important thing for women to do is to maintain their health. "Most women put our partners, our children and our jobs first," stated Wise, "we continue to allow our business and families to tug on us at one of the most important times in their lives."

Wise will be working side by side with California native, Rolanda Wilkins, who heads the New Jersey branch of Birthing Project USA, also coined "The Underground Railroad for New Life," project. Wilkins pairs up pregnant women with a "sister friend," who provides moral support to a year after the pregnancy. The sister friend is trained to provide direction, emotional support and education to the mothers. It creates an extended family which is geared towards survival. "One reason infant mortality is so high is because we often don't have that family and support," stated Wilkins. "Our main goal is to make sure they feel special about their pregnancy. Everybody wants to feel connected." Expecting mothers can call toll free number 1-888-14-BIBS or email www.state.nj.us/health/bibs for information on better birth outcomes and practical support.

Rev. Jackson gets release of 2,000 Sierra Leone POWs

LOME, Togo — Seeking to put the Sierra Leone civil war on the front pages, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. warned the media and the U.S. government that they must put as much focus on Sierra Leone as it has Kosovo.

On May 18, Jackson brokered and signed a cease-fire agreement between the country's President Charles Kabbah and rebel leader Foday Sankoh, and he also secured the release of over 2,000 prisoners of war, most of whom are children and soldiers from neighboring nations.

Jackson made his statements hours after U.S. President Bill Clinton telephoned him here to commend him for his successful historic peace mission. Speaking from Air Force One, while in route to Colorado.

The president reiterated his "appreciation" for Jackson's highly skilled efforts and for "bringing about this agreement which marks an important first step towards peace," he said.

However, Jackson, who expects to return to the United States over the weekend, warned "There is a tremendous difference on how we've responded politically and how the media has covered this crisis," he said. "This is the bloodiest war in the last decade, yet we have not seen any of this on the news as we have seen coverage on Kosovo. Both should be covered. This is the tale of two continents."

For example, Jackson said: "There has been no budgetary commitment to rebuilding this war-torn nation as we heard in Europe. In the Yugoslavian war is over, there will be billions spent on rebuilding the cities. The same kind of security and stability and democracy in Kosovo and Yugoslavia must apply to Sierra Leone and to Africa as well."

Yesterday's observation comes after Jackson exited a 10-hour meeting with Kabbah and Sankoh on Tuesday which resulted in the cease-fire agreement, effective May 24. There are over 12,000 troops in Sierra Leone, most of whom are Nigerian.

In addition to the 600,000 murders, people, including children as young as five, have had their limbs amputated, including their eyes. Sierra Leoneans must apply to Sierra Leone information minister.

Plainfield teacher turns a vision into a \$100,000 literacy grant

By Lucy Sanchez
Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD — New to the teaching profession, Lynette Shyers came to Emerson School just four years ago with a genuine compassion to help students in their most crucial learning stages. The Rowan University graduate saw a great need for improving literacy skills not only in her special education class but in the entire Plainfield district.

Shyers combined her love of learning with the support of her colleagues and established an extended day program to help students improve their literacy skills. "I truly believe in the theory that all children are special," stated Shyers. "There are no throw-aways."

The humble educator got down to business when it came to the children. Starting in December of last year she contacted the Gerald R. Dodge Foundation of Morrisville, NJ seeking money to establish a literacy based program. Together with Principal Edward Bilinsky, Vice-principal Gail Schwartz, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Larry Leverett, Shyers fine-tuned a successful proposal.

"I think that any person can sit down and write a grant," stated Schwartz. "Lynette created a vision. She created a picture that the children of Plainfield will learn and be successful in their life."

She received a \$100,000 grant to become the lowest achieving students in the area



Special needs educator, Lynette Shyers reads to her students.

of reading, writing, speaking, speaking, viewing and thinking. The three-year program will begin in October at Emerson School for kindergarten through the third grade. It will also focus on special education and bilingual children. "Reading guru," Tressa Brown, who inspired Shyers, will be training the staff in an "extremely structured" literacy review course geared towards teaching the new students in two hour blocks for four days a week. Children will be selected according to their needs and classroom performance. Once a child has surpassed their academic level they will cycle out of the program, allowing another student the opportunity to enter the program. Therefore, a child may be in it for the entire

year or for a few months. By the end of the third year five schools in Plainfield should be fully participating in the program.

Needless to say, Shyers is thrilled about the amount of support she received from the staff, parents, students and school district officials. "A lot of time districts don't even want to hear your opinion," said Shyers. "Plainfield is different. I've learned so much in four years it's astronomical. In another district I don't think I would've gotten to this level and been able to write a grant or receive the support to do this."

Shyers along with school district officials and parents know they have a lot of hard work ahead of them, however, they are up for the challenge.

Additional Abbott funds coming for city kids



Republican Senate President Donald J. DiFrancesco signs the Abbott bill, granting an additional \$14 million to Neptune and Plainfield school districts.

By Carl Chase
Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD — "Thank you, Governor DiFrancesco!" shouted Plainfield Schools Superintendent Larry Leverett when the Republican Senate president, Donald J. DiFrancesco signed into law a measure making the Plainfield and Neptune school systems eligible for \$14 million in additional school funding.

The signing on May 17 filed Hubbard Middle School's auditorium with joy as educators and elected representatives took a moment to celebrate the moment's import. This was, after all, the climax of a two-year struggle that forced New Jersey to address the gap between rich and poor public school pupils.

"Obviously this took a lot of support from a lot of people," said Assemblyman Jerry Green, considered the driving force behind the battle to win back the special-needs status given by the New Jersey Supreme Court. Two years ago, Gov. Whitman's new school funding law knocked these districts out of the special-needs funding pool. The new measure, S-806, designates both districts as

"Abbott districts" under the current funding law, allowing them to apply for increased state aid. It earmarks \$12.5 million of supplemental aid to be added to the district's state aid over the next three years, along with \$1.5 million additional that will go to Neptune. DiFrancesco signed as acting governor as Gov. Christine Whitman was traveling outside the state on Monday morning. Having represented the area in the 1970s, he said Plainfield has a special place in his heart. "I've seen the hard work and commitment that have been invested in its children. Unfortunately it's not enough to overcome the financial struggle of Plainfield."

In Neptune, more than two out of five children are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. Neptune is next door to the Abbott special district in Asbury Park.

Co-sponsor Assemblyman Tom Smith said the road ahead won't be easy. "Remember, the money is there, and the rest is up to you. And remember, you can't go back to the well too many times."

Not every educator is happy, in light of what isn't being done in

See ABBOTT page A6

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

PLAINFIELD — The Art Mart holds a spring sale on all art material. 9 a.m.

JERSEY CITY — New Jersey City University hosts an art exhibit featuring the work of Ben Jones at the school's art gallery. 6 p.m. (201) 200-3420.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

NEWARK — The New Jersey Institute for School Innovation presents "1,000 Friends of Public Education" Luncheon honoring Robert Kay of the New York City Partnership at The Newark Club. Call (973) 621-6531 for time.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center holds an Annual Open House Reception and Art Show. 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3505.

FRIDAY, MAY 28

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center holds a birthday party for seniors born in May. 1:30 p.m. (908) 753-3505.

NEWARK — The African-American Heritage Parade and Festival will take place at Weequahic Park. The event will offer food, music and important information on health and business for the whole family throughout the Memorial Day Weekend. Call (973) 642-5051 for more information.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

BRADLEY BEACH — The Bradley Beach Parade Committee presents the annual Memorial Day Parade beginning at 10 a.m. (732) 775-0292.

STANHOPE — The Waterford Village hosts a Blues and Wine Tasting Festival featuring a Black Widow Blues Band. 12 p.m. (908) 475-4400.

SUNDAY, MAY 30

NEWARK — The African American Heritage Parade Committee, Inc. hosts the 21st Annual African American Heritage Parade at Broad Street. 11 a.m. (973) 642-5051.

HOUNDEL — The PNC Bank Arts Center presents Larry Kravitz beginning at 8 p.m. (732) 335-0400.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

JAMESBURG — Single Faces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Forsgate Country Club. 9 p.m. (732) 426-2406.

HOUNDEL — PNC Bank Arts Center presents rock legends Santana. Call (732) 335-0400 for time.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

PATERSON — The Westminster Presbyterian Church hosts an indoor/outdoor flea market sale. 9 a.m. (973) 345-4325.

SPRINGFIELD — Single Faces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Holiday Inn. 9 p.m. (732) 426-2406.

PLAINFIELD — A Festival For Kids will take place at Park Madison. The event will focus on the success and achievement of young children. Call (973) 606-2862 for information and time.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

MONTCLAIR — Mid American Productions presents the Elysium Chamber Music Series of Upper Montclair featuring Elysium String Quartet at Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair beginning at 4 p.m. (212) 239-5005.

ISLEN — Singles Faces, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Woodbridge Hilton. 8 p.m. (732) 426-2406.

EAST BRUNSWICK — The Quilts Garden Gallery presents sculptors Paul Jeffries and Ralph Greco in the production of "Men of Stone and Steel." 1 p.m. (732) 257-4340.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

NEWARK — The Court date for Max Antonio, Victim of police torture by Irvington police that left him paralyzed, in a wheelchair, blind in one eye, deaf in one ear, even after 17 surgeries at the Essex County courthouse. Contact (732) 255-8044.

RARITAN — The Somerset County Chamber of Commerce hosts its 27th Annual Golf Outing at the Raritan Valley Country Club. 11 a.m. (908) 725-1552.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

WAYNE — Singles Function, Inc. hosts a singles function at the Wayne Manor. 9 p.m. (732) 426-2406.

PATERSON — Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. presents a scholarship dinner and dance at Wayne Manor beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 774-4412.

TINTON FALLS — The Monmouth Urban League will host its Sixth Annual Equal Opportunity Awards Dinner Dance at Globe Hall Officer's Club beginning at 6 p.m. (732) 345-7096.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

ELIZABETH — Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey hosts its Second Annual Summer Breakfast Conference at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. 9 a.m. (973) 484-7554.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

EAST RUTHERFORD — The Beta Alpha Omega of Alpha Kappa Sorority Inc. of Newark will salute recipients of its Scholarship 100 and Community Service Awards at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel. 11:30 a.m. (973) 631-1087.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Singles Faces Inc. hosts a singles function at Pantalis Renaissance. 9 p.m. (732) 426-2406.

MONDAY, JUNE 21

LIVINGSTON — The Essex County Clerk Office will hold a county meeting at Livingston Town Hall. 2 p.m. (973) 821-4521.

MONDAY, JULY 5

CALDWELL — Caldwell College offers a summer program to prepare international students for college level study in ESL (English As a Second Language). Call (973) 618-3274 for time and information on registration.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

PATERSON — The 1995 Ms. Urban USA Pageant are taking applications for the annual contest that will take place on Saturday August 14. Call (800) 285-2481 for information.

Gov. Whitman gives a gift to No. Plainfield



Gov. Christine Whitman (second left) recently presented a check to North Plainfield Borough. The funds will be used for recreation purposes. Pictured with the Governor are (l-r) Assemblyman Alan Augustine and Richard Bagger, Councilman Jim McGarry, and Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Jane Kenny.

Townsend presented with union certificate

Local 68's Welfare Fund EAP, in conjunction with the Essex West Hudson Labor Council, sponsored the Union Counseling Course in West Caldwell. The participating members were given access to varied curriculum ranging from insights into drug abuse to workman's compensation. Pictured here are (l-r) Thomas P. Giblin, Local 68 President; Darrell Townsend, 1998 Union Counseling Graduate; Kevin Frey, Union Counseling Coordinator; and Joan McElroy, Director of Local 68 EAP.



Heart Association seeks funding for research



American Heart Association volunteers, (l-r) Dr. Walter Duran, Dawn Lauridsen, RN and Dr. Nancy Rodemaker, recently visited New Jersey Congressman Donald Payne (second right) in Washington, DC to discuss increase funding for heart disease and stroke research. Heart disease and stroke are the number one and number three killers in the country. More than 40 percent of American deaths annually are attributed to cardiovascular disease.

Weightlifting Demo

Loreen Miller (left), the 1998 Weightlifting Nationals champion, worked with throwers on the New Jersey City University women's track and field team on the "jerk drop," a lift that builds speed. Ms. Miller, who holds all junior American records and usually lifts between 187 and 200 pounds, and Jan Schlegel (right), an NJCU associate professor of sport and leisure studies, trained junior Rachel Wright (standing with the weights) as freshman Marie Gleamond (seated) waits her turn. Mark Griffin, assistant director of athletics and coach of the track team and sophomore Keisha Owen (standing) look on.



Lelon Hill

Meals on wheels recipient through the Chattahoochee Direct Services Corporation

"Knowing where my next meal is coming from means knowing someone cares."

Like many seniors across the country who are not able to provide food for themselves, Lelon Hill knows that waiting can be the hardest part.

Now, Lelon doesn't have to wait any more, thanks to the efforts of a meals on wheels program in rural Georgia called the Chattahoochee Direct Services Corporation. A grant from the Senior Helpings Initiative, created by Philip Morris, has enabled this program to reduce their waiting list by forty percent. That means that people like Lelon not only receive the meals they need, but also the care and companionship that connects them to the world.

Through initiatives such as Senior Helpings, Philip Morris has been helping communities in need for more than forty years.

To find out how you can help, call the National Meals on Wheels Foundation (616) 530-0929

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Nation Briefs

MURDERS AND SUICIDES RISE SHARPLY AMONG U.S. TEENS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two weeks after a shooting spree left 15 people dead at a high school in Colorado, a nationwide survey showed that there has been a sharp increase in homicides and suicides among teenagers. The survey, conducted by the U.S. Surgeon General's office, found that the number of teenagers aged 15 to 19 who were killed in 1998 was 1,100, an increase from 800 in 1997.

The report, by the independent Public Health Policy Advisory Board (PHAPAB), says that adolescent homicides and suicides now represent the No. 2 and 3 causes of death among all U.S. children, aged one to 19 years.

"Increasingly, homicide and suicide pose some of the biggest risks to children in this nation," says Maria New, head of the Pediatrics Department at Cornell University Medical Center in New York. "We need to recognize that the sad events in Littleton, Colorado are indicative of larger trends in teenage violence." —Jim Lofe

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS HISTORY OF BLACK UPPER-CLASS

NEW YORK (AP)—"Being black has too long meant that one group in a society is the underdog, that one is not well educated, that one does not have a father at home," said Lawrence Otis Graham, the 38-year-old author of "Our Kind of People: Inside Black America's Upper Class."

In his 418-page book, Graham, a product of the Black upper class, has set out to reveal a mostly ignored black upper class world of million-dollar homes, expensive all-black schools, and sumptuous parties, debauched balls, and social clubs.

Many of today's best-known black leaders from Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, and Al Sharpton to the United Nations, to Vernon Jordan, the well-known corporate lawyer and confidante to President Clinton, have their roots in black upper-class families.

"Not every successful black person has to be a singer or a basketball player," said the accomplished attorney, professor and author. "We need a broader definition of what it means to be black in America." —Leslie Goffe

NYPD TO UNVEIL MINORITY RECRUITMENT ADS

NEW YORK (AP)—The NYPD's minority recruitment ads will start airing next week. Police Commissioner Howard Safir said the ads will be aired for the first time this week. Print, posters and ads in the subways and on buses will go up shortly after that. Safir said, "I think they're very good," said Safir, but would not elaborate on them.

The ads are being done pro bono by Arnell Group Brand Consulting, based in Manhattan. Arnell Group has done ads for Donna Karan, Tommy Hilff and for Hanes underwear.

Safir announced several weeks after Amadou Diallo was shot at 41 times by four police officers that the ads were being drawn up. The 400-strong police force is nearly two-thirds white. The city is nearly two-thirds minority.

SPITZER: GIULIANI REFUSES TO COOPERATE WITH PROBE

NEW YORK (AP)—State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is accusing Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of failing to cooperate with an investigation into the NYPD's stop-and-search tactics on the street.

In a letter to the mayor, newspapers reported Sunday that Spitzer accused Giuliani of reneging on a deal to provide police documents to Spitzer's office.

"The city's refusal to cooperate is devastating to our effort to do the investigation properly," Spitzer said. "We will litigate as far as we need to get these documents."

Many have criticized the department for targeting minorities disproportionately and the U.S. Justice Department is investigating whether the searches violate civil rights.

The practice has come under increased scrutiny since the Feb. 4 shooting of unarmed West African immigrant Amadou Diallo by four white police officers.

The paperwork Spitzer wants contains information about the identity of people police stop and frisk on the street, an essential component of an investigation into the practice.

In his letter to Giuliani, Spitzer said Corporate Counsel Michael Hess has informed him the city has no intention of turning over the documents.

A spokeswoman for the Giuliani administration could not immediately be reached for comment late Saturday evening.

Congresswoman Waters puts an end to CIAs drug trafficking

WASHINGTON — Representative Maxine Waters' drug trafficking amendment to "The Intelligence Authorization Bill," was passed by the House of Representatives without opposition. The amendment effectively prohibits the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence agencies and their employees and agents from participating in drug trafficking activities. Following an excerpt from Rep. Waters' statement which she presented on the House floor.

Most Americans would assume that the CIA would never traffic illegal drugs and would engage in necessary actions to prosecute known drug traffickers. History, however, has proven that this is not the case.

For 13 years, the CIA and the Department of Justice followed a Memorandum of Understanding that explicitly exempted the CIA from

requirements to report drug trafficking by CIA assets, agents, and contractors to federal law enforcement agencies. This allowed some of the biggest drug lords in the world to operate without fear that their activities would be reported to the Drug Enforcement Agency or other law enforcement authorities. This remarkable — and secret — agreement was in force from February 1982 until August of 1995.

I have been investigating the allegations of drug trafficking by the Nicaraguan Contras during the 1980s. My investigation has led me to the conclusion that U.S. intelligence agencies knew about drug trafficking by the Contras in South Central Los Angeles and throughout the United States and chose to continue to support the Contras without taking any action to stop

the drug trafficking in the United States by the Contras. The report provides extensive details of evidence available to the CIA regarding drug trafficking by the Contra rebels and their supporters.

Even more remarkable is the fact that there is evidence that the CIA has actually participated in drug trafficking activities. In their late 1980s, the CIA began to develop intelligence on the Colombian drug cartel. To infiltrate the cartel, the CIA arranged an undercover drug smuggling operation with the Venezuelan National Guard.

More than one and one half tons of cocaine were smuggled from Colombia into Venezuela and then stored at a CIA financed Contra narcotics intelligence center in Venezuela.

In certain circumstances, the Drug Enforcement

Agency (DEA) arranges "controlled shipments," of illegal drugs, in which the drugs are allowed to enter the United States and then tracked to their destination and seized. However, in this case, the CIA was more interested in keeping the drug lords happy than confiscating the drugs and prosecuting the traffickers. The CIA asked the DEA for permission to "let the dope walk," that is to allow the drugs to be sold on our nation's streets. The DEA refused them turned them down flat. The CIA ushered the drugs into the United States anyway.

The CIA should not be allowed to bring cocaine or other illegal drugs into our country. Intelligence agencies should be working to stop the harmful trafficking in illegal drugs that is destroying our communities. They should not be assisting the drug traffickers.

Survey: Black women have fewer investments

By Peter Alan Harper

NEW YORK (AP) — Black women want to invest in stocks, but they've been stymied by family demands such as caring for children and financially supporting others, according to a study released about the investment attitudes of blacks and whites.

Overall, all blacks are underinvested due to "formidable cultural and demographic factors," even as the bull market still roars on Wall Street, according to the second annual survey, sponsored by Ariel Mutual Funds and Charles Schwab & Co.

"After working so hard to get into the middle class, many blacks are still missing out on the greatest wealth-building opportunity in American history," said John Rogers, president of Ariel Mutual Funds.

The Ariel/Schwab survey, conducted last fall, queried 813 black and 816 white households with annual incomes at or exceeding \$30,000. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.

"Black women have lots of demands on their time and resources, particularly those relating to taking care of children," said Melody Hobson, senior vice president at Ariel.

Black women are more likely than white ones to have children present under age 18 (53 percent vs. 40 percent), are more likely to be single-parent households (16 percent vs. 3 percent) and are more likely to financially support people outside of their immediate families (27 percent vs. 12 percent), according to the survey.

In addition, Hobson said, "Black

women have been hindered because we've been the least exposed of all groups to the stock market and investing."

That lack of exposure extends to childhood.

The survey showed that 36 percent of both black males and females opened a bank account before high school, against 57 percent of white males and 51 percent of white females; 23 percent of black females grew up in a home with stocks, compared with 25 percent of black males, 45 percent of white males and 46 percent of white females.

Also, blacks and whites differ in their views on the best way to invest, with blacks leaning toward banks, real estate and whole life insurance and whites more likely to use brokerage firms or invest in mutual funds.

Black women are the most likely to own whole life insurance (60 percent compared with 40 percent of white men), least likely to have money in a mutual fund (38 percent vs. 58 percent of white men) and least likely to have money in an IRA account (29 percent vs. 53 percent for white men).

Hobson said the inclination for blacks to covet real estate is long engrained because "African-Americans were denied the right to own land for a long time, so we are seeing the ripple effect of that."

But while black women were underexposed to investing, they are the forefront of seeking knowledge about this area.

The survey found that 79 percent of black women plan to consult with a professional when investing, against 56 percent of white men. More black women than white women have read about investing.

Malcolm X's bullet-riddled diary up for auction, family protests

By Verena Dobnik

NEW YORK (AP) — The bloodied, bullet-riddled diary of Malcolm X, which was his coat pocket when he was assassinated, is going up for auction.

But his family insists they are the rightful owners of the 146 pages once used as evidence in the trial of the men convicted of killing the black Muslim leader.

"This should go back to the family," Kenneth Cobb, director of New York's Municipal Archives, said on Saturday. "This is the personal property of Malcolm X."

The red, mock-leather booklet was People's Exhibit 60 at the trial of the three men found guilty in Malcolm X's killing on Feb. 21, 1965, in a Harlem ballroom.

A San Francisco-based auction house, Butterfield & Butterfield, is to sell the diary on May 27 for possibly as much as \$50,000. Mired by three bullet holes and blood stains, it contains phone numbers of Malcolm's friends and associates, other personal notes, and his schedule on days he never lived to see.

New York City officials are now investigating how the item got into the hands of a private collector, who then sold it to the current owner, reportedly a New York resident.

The archives took possession of Malcolm X's case files from the Man-

hattan District Attorney's office in 1993, officials said. The personal effects of a murder victim usually are returned to family members, police Inspector Michael Collins told the New York Times.

Joseph Fleming, who represents the estate of the late Betty Shabazz, Malcolm's widow, told the newspaper that the family, including Malcolm's daughter Ilyasha Shabazz, is "shocked" that something that represents so intimate a part of their father's last moments would find its way to an auction house on the West Coast.

Phone calls to Butterfield & Butterfield were not immediately answered Saturday, nor was a message left at Fleming's New York office.

The auction house released a one-line statement late Saturday, saying it "does not believe (and have not said we believe) the address book of Malcolm X was held by the New York Police Department." Officials did not, however, say how the previous owner obtained the book.

The remaining files in the case — including autopsy reports, shell casings and mangled bullets — were stored in a Brooklyn warehouse as part of the Municipal Archives.

Cobb, of the archives, said that if the family gets the diary back, he would like to "have a copy to keep in the files as part of the historical record."

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

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UNION — The Union County Economic Development Corporation presents its Seventh Annual Networking Cruise. Call (908) 527-1126 for time and location.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

NEW YORK — The Ministry Business Enterprise Legal Defense & Education Fund will hold a seminar on "Small Disadvantaged Business Certification & Eligibility." Call 1-800-357-9359 for location.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

ORANGE — The Community Institute for Career Advancement offers a career training course in the field of Security Office. Call (973) 572-5800 for time and information.

NEW YORK — Chase Manhattan Bank hosts a seminar on financial planning entitled "Strategic Planning: Documenting the Path to Your Success." 5:15 p.m. (212) 522-4175.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

TRENTON — The Human and Civil Rights Association of New Jersey will host "Equal Employment Opportunity 2000," a training seminar and workshop on the hottest jobs and company practices in the workforce. The event will take place at the Maricopa Temple beginning at 8 a.m. (732) 293-1157.

TRENTON — The New Jersey Business and Industry Association host the 39th Annual New Good Neighbor Awards Luncheon at the Woodbridge Hilton. 11:30 a.m. (609) 393-7707.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey State Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on wills and estate planning at the New Jersey Law Center. 7 p.m. (732) 937-7518.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

LONG ISLAND — The Regional Alliance for Small Contractors offers a course marketing for the millennium at NYC School Construction Authority. 9 a.m. (212) 435-6505.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

TEANECK — The Port Authority of New Jersey and New York and The New York-New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council presents 1999 Marketing & Business Expo at the Marriott at Glenpointe Hotel. Call (212) 562-2334 for time.

Unique models for charitable giving

By Dale G. Caldwell



The strength of the economy has inspired many Americans to give more money to charities than they have in the past. Charitable giving has risen in excess of seven percent in each of the last three years. In response to this new financial focus, some of the leading financial experts in the country have created financial instruments that incorporate charitable giving. Most people think that the only way to contribute to a charity is to give money directly to a non-profit organization. There are many other ways to give money to support a charitable institution. In this column, I will examine four different ways to give money to charity.

Community Foundations
Community foundations take the money that they receive and contribute it to local nonprofit organizations. Community foundations are like mutual funds for charitable contributions. They are created to assist in the effective distribution of charitable contributions. When contributing to a community foundation you have the option of choosing where you would like your money invested (i.e., homelessness, literacy, etc.). This type of investment is excellent if you want to invest in your community but do not know where to invest. The biggest drawback of community foundations is that they have an overhead of up to 1.5% of assets.

Charitable Trusts
Charitable trusts enable donors to make charitable contributions that generate income. These trusts allow you to defer assets as long as a portion goes to charity. "Renninger" and "lead" are the two basic types of charitable trusts. A charitable remainder trust allows you to donate real estate, stocks or other assets to a charity through the trust. You can take tax deduction in the year of the gift while receiving an annual income for the rest of your life or 20 years (whichever comes first). These payments can range from five percent to 50 percent of the assets in the trust. The IRS requires that at least ten percent of the trust's value at the time you make

your contribution goes to charity. The charitable lead trust enables a charity to collect a fixed income for a set period of time. You can deduct these charitable contributions. When the period expires, you or your heirs get whatever is remaining in the trust. These trusts are excellent ways to reduce your estate taxes. In addition, they can help to reduce capital gains taxes if you donate appreciated assets to the remainder trust. The downside of trusts is that they are extremely complicated and usually require significant legal fees to set up.

Private Foundation
A private foundation is usually set up by an individual or family with one very large gift of cash or property that can be easily sold. Typically the foundation has a particular charitable focus and makes contributions to civic organizations focused on that particular issue. The good news is that private foundations are among the leading supporters of civic organizations in urban areas. The bad news is that the set up costs and management costs are significant. Therefore, it probably does not make sense to set up a private foundation with less than \$1,000,000.

Gift Funds
Gift funds are probably the newest of the unique charitable giving models. Some of the large mutual fund companies and banks have established their own gift funds. You can deduct your contribution as soon as you make it to the gift fund. However, you have an unlimited amount of time to recommend where you would like the gift donated. While you are deciding where to contribute your money you can divert the money into an investment account of your choice (which has a management fee as high as one percent). Gift funds are a great way of empowering your heirs to give to charity. Charitable giving can be complicated. I therefore recommend that you consult a financial planner to help you determine what type of charitable giving makes sense in your personal financial plan.

Industry group honors Investors' Patrick J. Grant



MILLBURN — At the recent annual convention of the New Jersey League of Community and Savings Bankers, Patrick J. Grant, chairman and president of Investors, received the Emil A. Gallman Award for commitment and contributions to the thrift industry.

The event took place in Scottsdale, Ariz. earlier in May. Grant, a New Providence resident, was installed as chairman of the New Jersey Savings League in 1994 after serving on the League's

board of governors since 1991. In 1997, he was elected to the board of directors of America's Community Bankers, the national trade group for 2,000 savings and community financial institutions and related firms.

Grant was appointed that year to the state's Community Financial Services Advisory Board by Gov. Christie Whitman.

Prior to joining Investors, he spent 30 years with KPMG Peat Marwick, and was partner in charge

of its charitable practice in New York and New Jersey.

Grant Patrick J. Grant joined Investors Savings Bank as executive vice president and chief operating officer in 1988. He was elected president and CEO in 1990 and chairman of the board in 1997.

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Local Briefs

Woman missing for two months found dead in car

NORTH BRUNSWICK/AP) — A teen-ager reported missing two months ago was found shot to death in her grandmother's car.

Police found Sakera Stokes' body Sunday night in the parking lot of a North Brunswick apartment complex, Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor Thomas Kapsak said. She died of a single gunshot wound to the head, an autopsy concluded on Monday.

Stokes, who lived in Somerset with her grandparents, was last seen March 15 leaving her home in her grandmother's car, Kapsak said. He wouldn't say where Stokes was going. Stokes' 19th birthday was April 2.

A witness called Sunday and told police that a body was in a car parked outside the North Brunswick Manor Apartments complex, Kapsak said. Police are interviewing that witness, and Kapsak wouldn't say whether the witness was a possible suspect.

No one has been charged.

The car had been parked in the apartment complex for at least a few days, Kapsak said.

Man pleads guilty to policewoman's murder

By Amy Werfield
ORANGE/AP) — A sentence of life imprisonment is the best outcome that can be guaranteed for a Newark man who pleaded guilty to killing an Orange policewoman.

Orange Police Director Richard Conte said.

Woodson, 25, entered a guilty plea to felony murder for gunning down Officer Joyce Carnegie on April 8. He will face life in prison without possibility of parole, a mandated term for killing a police officer. The plea agreement spares him from the death penalty.

Conte said there was no way to be sure Woodson would have gotten the death penalty if the case had gone to trial. The death penalty was reinstated in New Jersey in 1982, but no one has been executed since 1963. There are currently 15 people on death row.

Carnegie, who had been on the force for four years, was the second policewoman slain in the line of duty in New Jersey history and the first Orange officer killed in 35 years.

Conte said the sentence finally brought some closure to Carnegie's family and the Orange Police Department.

Fifth indictment against cop in New Brunswick prostitution case

NEW BRUNSWICK/AP) — A New Brunswick police detective facing a fifth indictment on charges of running a brothel continues to deny the allegation, according to his lawyer.

James Marshall, 43, of Milltown, was charged by a Middlesex County grand jury with soliciting bribes from two criminal defendants. Marshall already faces four other indictments that stemmed from allegations he, city police Sgt. Marco Chinchilla and two other men ran a house of prostitution in New Brunswick.

Marshall's lawyer said the latest indictment indicates that prosecutors have a weak case.

Tuesday's indictment alleges Marshall sought bribes to help get lower bail for one defendant, and have property seized by police returned to another defendant.

Two previous indictments concern Marshall's alleged involvement in the brothel, one charges him with distributing drugs, and still another charges him perjury in obtaining a search warrant, Aarsenault said. He said Marshall denies all the charges.

The two officers, both 16-year veterans, were suspended without pay in December.

Paterson festival celebrates African American ancestry

PATERSON — On June 19, the Women of Wisdom will host this year's "In Memory of the Ancestors (I.M.O.T.A.) Parade and Juneteenth Festival. The opening ceremony will begin in the Masonic Temple parking lot at 9 a.m. followed by a procession up Broadway to Bantide Park where the Juneteenth Festival will start immediately after the parade ends.

Juneteenth is known as the oldest celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States. This was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official on January 1, 1863. A range of "Independence Day" activities were provided to entertain the masses, many of which continue today such as prayer services.

Seton Hall University Project 2000 honors local heroes

ORANGE — Seton Hall University Project 2000 honored its volunteer teacher assistants, Prudential Foundation President Gabriella Morris and several other individuals at its 7th Annual Evening of Celebration on Tuesday, May 11, 1999.

The event, conducted at Seton Hall University, pays tribute to the men who volunteer in the third grade classrooms at Alexander Street Elementary School in Newark and Oakwood Avenue School in Orange.

Prudential Foundation, President of the Constance Woodruff Award for her outstanding support to the Project 2000 program since its inception. Seven other groups or individuals were given Community Service Awards for their support of the program as well. They are: The Amelior Foundation, Morrisstown; Joyce W. Harley, Esquire, Senior Vice President of Community Development at Fleet Bank; Patrick Morelli, distinguished artist and sculptor, Diamond Navarro, Principal of Alexander Street Elementary School in Newark; Eula Penn, Principal of Oakwood Avenue Elementary School in

Orange; the Sons of Thunder, an extension of the Sons of Outreach Ministry at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church in Orange; and Philip Thomas, Vice President of Arts Education at New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

The keynote speaker was the Honorable James R. McGreevey, Mayor of Woodbridge Township and the Democratic Party's candidate for governor in 1997. McGreevey's speech was directed to the 60 Project 2000 children in attendance.

Project 2000 exposes inner-city youth to positive male role models who can influence attitude toward school and academic achievement. Adult males volunteer as teacher assistants by interacting regularly with them in the classroom. Teacher assistants typically volunteer one-half day per week assisting classroom teachers with a variety of classroom tasks, giving personal attention to students, and generally providing a male presence associated with education and achievement.

There are currently over 80 volunteer teacher assistant assistants, but more are needed.



Gabriella Morris, President of the Prudential Foundation

Schools struggle to teach students second language

By Nancy Parello

TRENTON (AP) — The research is pretty solid on the subject. The sooner you start teaching children a second language, the better the chance they'll actually learn to speak it.

It's never too late to learn how to read

By Paul Nelson
Contributing Writer

PLAINFIELD — Take a stroll around Plainfield's public library on any given night and chances are you'll observe everything from fractions to French being taught. Glance over in the west wing and teachers and students are poring over verbs and vocabulary words in preparation for the G.E.D. Though these are often not your typical students, their fervor for learning is uncompromising and the determination on their faces rivals that of a kindergarten. It's all part of the city's attempt to help area residents become more literate, informed and bolster their self-esteem. And the price is right because the service is absolutely free. Additionally, the program offers workshops in other areas such as computer training and life skills depending on the need and request. That's according to Shirley Tillman who is the director of the program, which is housed in the local public library.

Although not confined to, the literacy programs three main areas of concentration are reading which includes G.E.D. preparation, math that can range from basic subtraction to geometry and lastly there is English as a second language (ESL). Roughly half of the people who enter the program come to either brush up on their English or learn another language, says Tillman.

Certified tutors meet at least once weekly for 90 minutes with their charge. But before they begin these one on one sessions, they must first successfully complete a six-week training program. That's where people like Lorraine Shively enter the picture. She's with the local chapter of Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA) and provides prospective tutors with extensive training in various disciplines.

"There are a host of pedagogical techniques. Use what works with that individual and what you feel comfortable with," said Shively. "Find the key to the students learning and unlock their potential."

Plainfield resident Renee Doctor who is presently in one of Shively's classes says she wants to give back to the community. Doctor who holds a masters degree and works as a consultant says she's looking forward to the day she can apply everything she's learning to real life situations.

"I consider myself fortunate and want to make a difference in people's lives and help build their confidence," said Doctor.

Tillman says anyone who has at least a high school diploma and is interested in becoming a tutor can contact her at the library.

Tillman proudly recounts the wealth of success stories the program has produced. She vividly remembers the woman who came in with limited reading skills and is now a nursing student at Union County College. Another gentleman entered the program unable to read but emerged to the point where he was able to use his acquired skills to read road signs and maps and drive solo to North Carolina to visit relatives. And there are countless other similar stories like this, adds Tillman.

My Doolan, director of the state education department's Office of Standards and Professional Development.

By September, about half of the state's elementary schools will be offering lessons in a foreign language, Doolan said. On average, they are devoting 70 minutes a week to foreign language lessons, he said.

The others are still grappling with how to fit it in, which language to teach and how to teach it.

"Foreign language is of great concern," said Richard Levy, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Cherry Hill. "How do

you do it? We haven't solved that one yet."

"If you put a foreign language in, what do you take out? Do you hire a teacher who goes to all the elementary schools or do you bring in a program that a classroom teacher can do? It's also a financial issue. It's expensive."

Many districts are solving the time problem with longer school days.

The question of which language to offer also has some school officials in a quandary. Some districts are opting for Spanish, since it's so widely spoken. Others are offering Chinese, French or other languages.

If you have any sports news you care to submit, write to:

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Vietnam:

Dead men walking: a black experience

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

Flashback. You've seen them wandering aimlessly in the streets appearing ready to do battle dressed to kill — combat boots, army fatigues, and in the place of an M-16 rifle, a mean 2x4. With a hypnotic glare, eyes look right at you as if to say, "I dare you to speak," so you don't.

Some have labeled them as being "shot-out." Indeed, the reality of these faces and personalities is the backlash and beguiled legacy of a conflict — not a war — called Vietnam. Tricky at its best. No, these casualties of war didn't return home in a flag-draped coffin, laid to rest in peace. Rather, appearing to be physically intact, many black Vietnam soldiers returned home spirit-dead and gone roaming lifeless now amongst the living. Looking for some peace of mind, their search continues.

The black Vietnam soldier got no respect on the home front or in Vietnam, where often he, too, was perceived as the enemy. One only needs to factor in what was happening in these United States, during the '60s and '70s — he was economically deprived, far less educated than his white counterpart, a social outcast and a political misfit in a land he called home. These men became the United States' infantry in 'Nam, otherwise known as grunts. Accounting for approximately 13-to-15 percent of America's population but in Vietnam their number doubled. These young men were drafted, when they should have been attending their senior prom or playing in a band while dreaming a dream, like private first class. James "Frankie" Boyce. He was killed in action on Jan. 20, 1969. He was 20 years old.

Boyce, a 1966 graduate of Plainfield High School, played in a local band, "The Admirations," along with his two brothers Richard and "Jo-Jo." Both brothers, Richard and Frankie received letters from the draft board on the exact same day — Frankie's birthday, March 30. Two weeks later, the two enlisted under the assumption of an Army recruiter, who said they would probably serve in the Army Special Services Unit. One month later, their younger sibling Jo-Jo enlisted in the army also. Their dream really wasn't to serve their country but duty called. The dream was for all of them to return home around the same time and resume, what appeared to be, a promising musical career. Frankie's hopes were high — to make it big.

Less than a year apart in age, the Boyce brothers (Frankie and Richard) took their musical talents with them to Fort Dix Army base, where they entertained troops and high ranking officials. They pulled guard duty together, peeled potatoes together and even slept together, Richard's bunk atop Frankie's.

"They gave us special privileges, so we missed a lot of training," said Boyce in a telephone interview from his home in Jacksonville, Fla. "We played an awful lot. Frankie won entertainer of the year in 1968, at Fort Polk."

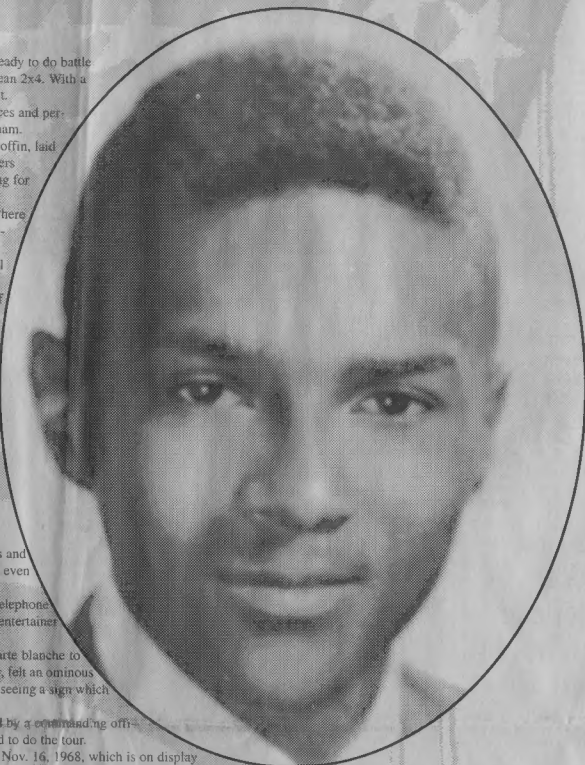
The two, still hoping to get into the Army Special Services Unit, which meant carte blanche to entertain and less chance of becoming a grunt, would never happen. Richard, however, felt an ominous feeling once the two received orders to report to Fort Polk, Louisiana. He remembers seeing a sign which read: "Fort Polk: home for the man bound for Vietnam."

The eldest of the brothers, Richard had a wife and a new daughter. When told by a commanding officer that one of them would have to go to Vietnam, Frankie, being single, opted to do the tour.

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Frankie to his parents on Nov. 16, 1968, which is on display at the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, Inc. located in Holmdel.

"I had chills, a fever of 102, my stomach was hurting so until I couldn't even hardly stand up. . . I went to the doctor in the field and all he did was give me a little bottle of pills and sent me back to duty. . . they treat us colored guys bad, I wish the people in the United States knew what is going on over here and how these people are treating the Negro."

The conflict ended in 1975 and accounted for 58,000 deaths. For those black soldiers, who returned home addicted to drugs, as depicted in Wallace Terry's book "Bloods: An Oral History of The Vietnam War by Black Veterans," some are scared for life. While others have had to wrestle with what has recently been diagnosed as Post Dramatic Stress Disorder. Many of them became — dead men walking.



Pic. James "Frankie" Boyce as he appeared in his 1966 graduation photo from Plainfield High School



The Boyce brothers (l-r) Frankie, Jo-Jo and Richard performed at Clara Green-Hall's (center) wedding.



Pic. James "Frankie" Boyce in Vietnam in Nov. 1968 with comedian and actress Martha Davis

*"I had chills, a fever of 102,
my stomach was
hurting so until I couldn't
even hardly stand up
... I went to the doctor in the
field and all he did was
give me a
little bottle of pills and sent
me back to duty. . .
they treat us colored guys bad,
I wish the people in the United
States knew what is going on
over here and how these people
are treating the Negro."*

a letter from Frankie to his parents

Photos courtesy of the NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. and the Boyce family.

Religion

City News B2

May 26 — June 1, 1999

RELIGION CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

NEWARK — M.L.T. Promotion Exchange presents the Gospel Charities with special guest the Friserson Singers of Newark, N.J. at Fellowship Baptist Church, 4 p.m. (973) 504-9555.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

WESTFIELD — St. Helen's Church offers a support group for those caring for the elderly loved ones. 8 p.m. (908) 233-8757.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

JACKSON — Soul Brothers Production Company presents gospel recording artist John P. Koe and New Life Community Choir at St. Flavia's Great Adventure, 4 p.m. (732) 422-6674.

POSITIVELY BLACK

Forgiveness begins from within

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

(NNPA) — One of the most misunderstood principles of group and personal healing and restoration is the concept of forgiveness. When we are admonished to forgive those who have injured or offended us, we are reluctant to do so, not only because maintaining grudges and resentments have become habitual patterns but because we really don't know what forgiveness is or how to do it.

We live in an ordered universe; for every action there is a subsequent consequence. When we understand this, we realize that through forgiveness we avoid the negative repercussions of what the Asian metaphysicians called the "wheel of Karma." Forgiveness means letting go of resentment, freeing oneself from the self-destructive psychological and emotional chains that shackle us to the past. What are they and what makes them self-destructive? It has been said,

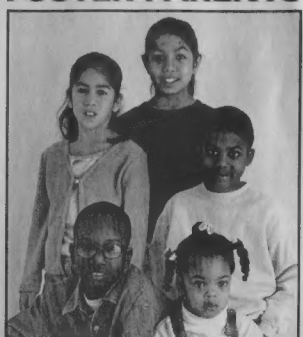
"It's not what happens to you in life but your response or reaction to it that counts." If someone injures you, I am not suggesting that you should be apathetic, not feel anything and go merrily on your way. That is unrealistic. You will have some kind of response, whether it is shock, bewilderment, dismay, anger or hurt. I am suggesting, however, that you feel what you feel, examine your response(s) and within a reasonable amount of time, regain your emotional equilibrium, positive energy level and get on with your life.

As Africans it would be foolish to expect us to like being debased as we were during the great Maafa, the disruption of indigenous African tribal life, capture and enslavement. We cannot like the trans-generational holocaust and trauma that followed once our ancestors arrived in this hemisphere. While attempting to forget it or push the unpleasantness of our experiences out of our conscious awareness might seem to

be the ideal way of dealing with our pain, it does not lend itself to healing or restoration. We should remember and accept what happened and examine why and how it happened, so that it does not occur again. We must not forget, but we must forgive. Forgiveness is an internal process that begins with a decision to let go of resentment. Forgiveness means exchanging or transmuting our anger and bitterness for understanding, planned and purposeful action. It frees us from the long-term consequences of internal damage to our psyche and bodies.

Forgiveness is the catalyst for our internal restoration, health and healing. Quiet as it's kept, being angry at someone doesn't affect them. Unless you confront them, or somehow make them aware of your anger, they go merrily on their way oblivious to your feelings! The outer circumstances of our lives may not improve instantaneously, but through the act of forgiving we will.

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In refugee village, religious observances take on added importance

By John Curran

FORT DIX, N.J. (AP) — They don't just need food, medical care and a place to live. The Kosovo refugees that have taken up residence here also have spiritual needs.

And Task Force Provide Refuge — the people in charge of this growing sanctuary of Muslims — is meeting those needs, buying 1,000 copies of the Koran, converting barracks classrooms into prayer rooms and bringing in Muslim clerics.

The first African American churches in Jersey City

By Glenn Cunningham

JERSEY CITY — In the 1850s two Methodist churches were established — one in Bergen and the other in Jersey City. Each can claim to be "the first" since these towns were still independent of each other.

These churches would be the center of African American spiritual life, but also the focus of their political, social and educational needs. The first African American churches became just that.

On April 22, 1850, an advertisement was placed in the Daily Sentinel and Advertiser, in which several members of the African Methodist Church in Jersey City, led by Mr. Stephen Barrell, appealed to the philanthropic and Christian public to help them build their church.

The appeal was heard, for shortly afterwards Cornelius Traphagen donated land for the church to be built on. The property was located at the foot of Academy Street at Mill Rock Road (now Mill Road). A large rock formation dominated the property, so it was called "Rock Hill."

By February, 1853, the congregation had raised \$450.00, and was able to start the building. A committee of white ministers was formed to help with fund-raising. In what was lauded as "A good move for the colored people," Rev. Saunders Corbit, of Trinity M.E., and Rev. George Hughes, of St. Paul's M.E., announced that the new church on the side of Bergen Hill would provide classroom space for African American children. The children were not allowed to attend the regular public schools.

The church's pastor, Rev. Charles Birt, labored day and night, helping to blast the giant rocks and paint the building. An anonymous woman presented a beautiful silver plated communion service to the church. Then, in late April, it was reported that "an exceedingly neat and commodious building, furnished in simple and conventional style," was ready for use.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, April 24, 1853. Actually, that dedication had been canceled because of bad weather, but the people were so enthusiastic that they came and filled the church anyway. Three white ministers who had supported the new church were invited to preach that day. Almost immediately the new church began to fulfill the role of a religious center. On May 7, 1853 the church sponsored a "temperance" celebration on the 11th anniversary of the Delaware State Temperance Union. The convention was held on the brow of Bergen Hill, in two acres of open space, surrounded by small cedar trees, with an excellent view of the city and bay. Three hundred people came from Jersey City, Bergen, New York and Brooklyn.

Recently, about 100 ethnic Albanian refugees shuffled their shoes and set down colorful prayer rugs on a grassy plain outside their mess hall for an hour-long juma, or community prayer service, to mark their weekly sabbath.

"This time, it's more important to be closer to God and to pray to God," said one participant, 23-year-old Enver Sulejmani of Pristina, Kosovo's capital. "God is the only help. And we give thanks to God, who gives America to help us."

U.S. Army chaplains and civilian clerics say such observations are more important than ever for the disenfranchised ethnic Albanians because of what they have endured.

Each of the dormitories in the

refugee village have two prayer rooms, one each for women and men. In each, a sign picturing a mosque is mounted on a wall, to let Muslims know which way is

east so they can pray facing that direction — toward Mecca, the birthplace of Mohammed, the prophet who founded their religion.

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HeartBeat

May 28 — June 4, 1999

CITY NEWS B3

Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY MAY 26

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center will offer a support group for breast cancer survivors beginning at 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273.

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center offers a program to avoid salt in foods, 8:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

CRANFORD — Union County College offers an IV Certification Course for all licensed practical nurses, 8:30 a.m. (908) 709-7503.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

WESTFIELD — The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County hosts a class on fat diets, 7 p.m. (908) 664-9854.

NEWARK — Newark Beth Israel Hospital will hold "Senior Day," which will look at situations affecting seniors as part of its commemoration of Older Americans Month beginning at 10 a.m. (973) 926-7175.

GARWOOD — The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation will hold a fund-raising event at Crossroads Restaurant beginning at 8:30 p.m. (908) 235-5655.

PLAINFIELD — Cedarbrook School presents the Literacy Health Fair inside the school's multi-purpose room beginning at 8:30 a.m. (908) 753-3589.

NEW YORK — The Lindesmith Center holds a discussion on preventing and managing binge drinking in college students at the Open Society Institute, 4 p.m. (212) 545-9895.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers water exercise for seniors at the YMCA in Plainfield, 10:30 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

GREENBROOK — American Red Cross of Greater Union County holds a blood drive at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home, 4:30 p.m. (908) 758-6414.

FRIDAY, MAY 28

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center offers a support group for those suffering from manic depression at the hospital's auditorium, 7:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield Senior Citizens Center offers free blood pressure screenings, 10 a.m. (908) 753-3506.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a special program on fertility for 12-year-old girls and their mothers at the hospital's conference center, 1:30 p.m. (732) 745-8523.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

NEW YORK — The Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association sponsors a health care policy conference at the Glenpointe Marriott in Teaneck, N.J. Call (718) 803-5782 for time and information.

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital offers a six-week speechreading/fluency course at the hospital's rehabilitation department, 10 a.m. (201) 833-3185.

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center offers a course in infant care, 7:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

JERSEY CITY — The Jersey City Medical Center offers a support group for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients at the hospital's conference room, 8 p.m. (201) 915-2273.

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center offers a support group for breastfeeding mothers, 7 p.m. (732) 235-7557.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

IRVINGTON — The Township of Irvington sponsors a community-wide blood drive at the Servicemen's Club, 11 a.m. (973) 399-6645.

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center offers a support group for those suffering from Hepatitis C and their families, 7:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

MORRISTOWN — The American Diabetes Association hosts a fund-raising bike ride at the UPS/Bellcore Park. Call (908) 786-9520 for time and information.

TEANECK — Holy Name Hospital hosts a fund-raiser party to benefit breast cancer survivors, their families, and research. The event will take place at Germino Restaurant, 12 p.m. (201) 833-7100.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

EDISON — JFK Medical Center hosts a class and discussion on grandparenting, 7 p.m. (732) 321-7000.

The real lives behind the numbers of HIV/AIDS patients

By Eric Goosby, M.D.

I saw my first HIV-infected patient in 1980 when I was a third-year medical resident covering the intensive care unit at San Francisco General Hospital. The patient was a law student, a young Hispanic man from nearby Cal-Berkeley. One day, he was the embodiment of high aims and hopes as an aspiring lawyer,

but in death he became an expression of lost dreams and unrealized potential, a victim of what was then an unknown pathogen. We later realized that this was the beginning of a long succession of AIDS-related deaths.

As a physician trying to provide relief to those ravaged by the disease, I have witnessed AIDS-related deaths more than 450 times. It is difficult to

recover from the sorrow of such sustained loss.

At the close of the 105th Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress and IHS teamed up to leverage an additional \$150 million in the current federal budget to fight HIV/AIDS in racial and ethnic minority communities. These dollars are the means through which we will better

position our communities to meet the expanding burden of the HIV epidemic.

I am optimistic about this new federal commitment. AIDS is the leading killer of African American men age 25-44 and the second leading killer of African American women in the same age group. The largest percentage of increases for HIV/AIDS are now among women and youth, racial and ethnic

minorities, injecting drug users and their sexual partners. Minority communities are not experiencing the overall decline in death rates and the promising new therapies that are being reported in the general population.

Dr. Goosby is Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"You gave my mother a reason to get up each morning!"



Clementine Mensah has peace of mind at work since her mother started coming to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center's Adult Medical Day Care Center.

"My mother lives with me. And though she got by on her own while I was at work—by sleeping late and passing time watching television—it was hardly living. I worried about her safety and health because she has diabetes, high blood pressure and some other minor ailments.

One day, I visited Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center's Adult Medical Day Care Center. I liked what I saw.

At first my mother was hesitant, but you wouldn't know it now. She's ready at 7 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. shuttle! Her days are filled with new friends and activities. She can't wait to tell me about her day when I get home. Before, my mom was existing; now she's really living!"

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Call Judy Bartlett today and ask about our free In-Home Adult Medical Day Care Assessment. It's a special visit from one of our certified professionals and will help you decide if adult day care is right for you and your loved one. And when you call, we'll send you a Home Safety Information Check List absolutely free!

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SOLARIS HEALTH SYSTEM

THURSDAY, MAY 27

SHORT HILLS — The East Orange Golf Course presents jazz singer Jackie Jones. 5:30 p.m. (973) 676-1075.

FRIDAY, MAY 28

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) presents a Hispanic Youth Showcase. 7 p.m. 1(888)-GO-NJPAC.

SUNDAY, MAY 30

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Community Partners Con-

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents the award-winning musical "Smokey Joe's Café" 7:30 p.m. (888) GO-NJPAC

WEDNESDAY, JUNE :

NEWARK — Musical hits from "Smokey Joe's Café." 7:30 p.m. at NJPAC. (973) 297-5834

NEWARK — Newark Symphony Hall presents the gospel-musical "Lord, Why Do I Keep Choosing the Wrong Man." 8 p.m. (973) 643-8009.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

NEW YORK — Audrey Ross, Inc. presents an all-star dance concert featuring Joan Miller's Dance Players at Martin Luther King High School. 7:30 p.m. (212) 586-3500.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

NEWARK — New Jersey Arts & Music Festival opens. The Temptations, The Neville Brothers, Koko Taylor & her Blues Machine, Felix Hernandez' Rhythm Revue and more. Through June 6. (888) GO-NJPAC.

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center presents the New York City Ballet commemorating the work of legendary composer Duke Ellington at the New York State Theater. 8 p.m. (212) 875-5588.

NEWARK — The Fashion Dome presents "The Dome After Dark" International Fashion Show at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC), 6 p.m. (973) 242-0444.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

NEW YORK — A musical prelude to the Puerto Rican Day parade jump-starts the annual festivities with a presentation of songs from the musical "Toys Without Children." Museum of the City of New York. 2 p.m. (212) 534-1672 ext.257.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

MADISON — The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival presents the Shakespeare comedy "As You Like It" at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre, 8 p.m. (973) 408-3278.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

NEW YORK — The Port Authority Cultural Department presents a salsa dance party at the Austin J. Tobin Plaza at the World Trade Center beginning at 6 p.m. (212) 435-4170.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

NEW YORK — The Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum hosts a Father's Day Concert featuring the New Amsterdam Baroque. 2 p.m. (212) 923-8008.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) present the legendary Isaac Hayes. 5 p.m. 1-(888)-GO-NJ PAC.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

NEWARK — The New Jersey State Opera presents renowned opera "Carmen" at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC). 8 p.m. 1-(888)-GO-NJPAC.

ENGLEWOOD — The JVC Jazz Festival presents the legendary James Brown at the John Harms Center for the Arts. Call (212) 496-9000 for information and time.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

LITTLE FALLS — Summerfun Theater, Inc. presents the play on the life of John Barrymore entitled "Barrymore." Call (973) 258-0576 for information and time.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

LITTLE FALLS — Summerfun Theater, Inc. presents David Mamet's play "The Old Neighborhood." Call (973) 255-0576 for information and time.

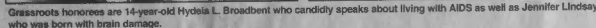
NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents the Brain Setzer Orchestra.
7:30 p.m. 1-(888)-GO-NJPAC

Grammy winner Lauryn Hill cried tears of joy when she received her award. Jamie Fox and Jada Pinkett Smith host the star-studded lineup.

Abdul, Jennifer Love Hewitt's most recent. Rebekah, however, he's quick to point out that cat tails aren't necessary. "You'd have to do everything with everyone else to get your-

Grammy winner Lauryn Hill cried tears of joy when she received her award.

Jamie Fox and Jada Pinkett Smith host the star-studded lineup.



SPECIAL S

Marc Cayce — "Nikita Blue." Cayce's short film entry, "Nikita Blue," is a story about a teenage girl who searches for

filmmakers and performers. It also serves as a marketplace for the buying of black films. The founder and executive producer of the festival is Byron Lewis, chairman and CEO, UniWorld Group, Inc. Warrington Hudlin, president of the Black Filmmaker Foundation, serves as executive producer and creator.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
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HOPE VI PROGRAM MANAGER

The Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick is seeking proposals from individuals or firms to provide Program Manager Services for the Authority's HOPE VI public housing effort. The successful firm shall have a core competence in the provision of legal services for HOPE VI Grants and other HUD funded and affordable housing programs, financial and development assistance, and social services expertise available either on-site or through joint venture with others.

Information packages will be available and can be picked up by interested parties at the Housing Authority Offices, 18 Van Dyke Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Proposals must be submitted in triplicate and no later than FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1999, 1:00 p.m. (prepaid) time. The Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informality in any proposal, and to reject any and all proposals, and to accept such proposals and make such award as it may see fit in the best interest of the Authority.

All questions after pick-up or requests for additional information shall be made via FAX to: Mr. John Clarke, HOPE VI Coordinator, 732-241-8605.

Kenneth Cunniff, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick

566.92

PUBLIC NOTICE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS
NJ KidCare Outreach and Enrollment campaign

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) is announcing the availability of grant funds to implement a NJ KidCare Outreach and Enrollment campaign. The notice, with additional detail, is also available on the Department of Human Services website (www.state.nj.us/humanservices) and the May 17, 1999, New Jersey Register.

The Division is planning to use approximately \$1 million of Title XX administration funds over two years (FY 2000 and 2001) to implement an outreach and enrollment campaign for NJ KidCare. The Division will use the money to pay successful applicants for identifying and assisting families to complete the NJ KidCare application process. DMAHS will also provide small stipend awards to successful applicants.

Consideration will be given to public and private provider entities or associations that have an established linkage to families in the community. Applicants must demonstrate that they can provide services statewide either directly or through collaboration with other agencies. Successful applicants will be reimbursed \$25 for each completed and approved NJ KidCare application. Funds will be available July 1, 1999.

Applicants may be requested from the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, Office of NJ KidCare, PO Box 712, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0712. Telephone requests for the application can be made to (609) 588-3526. Grant applications must be returned no later than June 8, 1999.

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This person will be assigned to project teams developing new programs or supporting/upgrading existing packages. Three to five years development experience in Oracle Database and Tools, Oracle, UNIX, along with relevant Bachelor's degree.

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HELP WANTED The New Jersey Authority has the following technical openings for professionals with skills in Oracle Database and Oracle Development Tools, Oracle Financials, and PeopleSoft Payroll/HCM. SYSTEMS SUPERVISOR This person will lead project teams in the development of major new client/server systems and/or upgrade and support of Oracle Financials, PeopleSoft, or other Oracle based and/or relevant package experience. Bachelor's Degree or advanced degree in Computer Science or related subject is also required. PROGRAM/ANALYST This person will be assigned to project teams developing new programs or supporting/upgrading existing packages. Three to five years development experience in Oracle Database and Tools, Oracle, UNIX, along with relevant Bachelor's degree. What We Offer In exchange for services, we offer our employees in these positions, an exciting employment opportunity, competitive salary compensation and benefits package, convenient work location in Central Jersey, and the privilege of working for a premiere controller roadway. If you would like to explore the possibility of becoming a member of our team, please send your resume with salary history and current salary requirement by 6/4/99 to: The New Jersey Highway Authority PO Box 5050 Woodbridge, NJ 07095-5050 All Human Resources EOE	HELP WANTED DIRECTOR 2, EDUCATION OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES AND INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES \$62,091.10 - \$84,986.70 Under the general direction of the Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student Services, this position leads staff of the Office of Educational Support Services and Interagency Initiatives in coordinating and identifying a clear policy direction for a variety of programs. These programs include substance abuse, violence and HIV/AIDS prevention, juvenile justice, school health, non-public schools, education and law enforcement, and other interagency initiatives involving the Departments of Health, Human Services and Law and Public Safety which serve students of all ages who represent at-risk populations requiring customized services. The director, Office of Educational Support Services and Interagency Initiatives, sets the goals, plans and implements the operations and evaluates the performance of the various programs; develops performance standards and makes performance evaluations of staff; summarizes and interprets federal and state laws and regulations applicable to the programs under management; directs the coordination and administration of data for reports to senior management and other agencies; and develops, administers and monitors the various program budgets. Requirements: Master's degree in education, public administration or a related field. Seven (7) years of professional experience including four (4) years in an administrative capacity. Please forward resumes no later than June 11, 1999. Applications received after closing date will be considered if position is not filled. PERSONNEL DIRECTOR NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REFERENCE #U-99-059-002 PO BOX 500 TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500 ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS CHILDCARE SERVICES ORANGE—Childcare services provided in private home. Near park. Reasonable rates. Call (973) 674-0536. friendly • Responsible • Loving & Caring • Safe Environment	HELP WANTED Sales ACCOUNT MANAGER MEDTOP, the nation's leading medical equipment rental company is seeking a qualified, highly motivated individual with 3 years health care sales or service experience to join their sales team in the MEDTOP/PET division. Responsibilities include supporting the sales efforts in maintaining and growing existing accounts to meet and exceed annual sales objectives. Will be responsible for prompt delivery, renewal and documentation of medical equipment as well as ensuring proper product utilization and identifying needs of the customer. We offer a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package, including 401(k), Pension plans and tuition reimbursement. Send resume and salary requirements to: MEDTOP/PET, Regional Sales Manager, 89 Lehigh Street, Unit 4, South Hackensack, NJ 07606. No phone calls or faxes please. EOE M/F/D/V. ROOM FOR RENT ORANGE—Furnished home in private home. Near transportation. 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IFL scorecard

Johnson returns after bout with cancer

By Tom Canavan
AP sports writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) There are times when LeShon Johnson is talking that he just has to stop and swallow hard, trying to soothe his parched lips and throat.

Until a year ago, the New York Giants running back didn't have that problem. Then came the cancer, the chemotherapy and finally the radiation, which dried out his saliva glands, at least temporarily.

It's something Johnson can endure after already having endured working to get back on the football field for another shot at playing in the NFL.

"Hey, I'm just so excited right now," Johnson said Wednesday after going through his second day of a minicamp for Giants veterans. "The main thing is I've joined the team again. It's great being around my teammates and going out there playing."

About this time last year, life was more uncertain. Doctors found a tumor the size of a grapefruit in his chest while taking a routine X-ray prior to last year's minicamp.

What made the discovery remarkable was that Johnson, who is from Haskell, Okla., and played junior college ball in Miami, Okla., was the picture of health. He was a 27-year-old who had just signed with the Giants as a free agent, and he might have been one of the best-conditioned athletes on the team.

Johnson insists he never asked "Why me?"

"I was thinking more about playing again and getting healthy," Johnson said, every once in a while sticking out his tongue to try to wet his lips. "I felt God was on my side, but playing again was the hardest thing. I didn't know if I could come back again."

Johnson really wasn't sure until late January.

The chemo wasn't that bad. He had trouble keeping food down after the first few doses, but he later was able to eat and work out after a session.

The 28 straight days of radiation were a lot tougher. The sessions only lasted five minutes, but the after-effects left him drained almost the entire month of January, a period that included his 28th birthday.

"It's pretty bad, but it's only as bad as you make it," said Johnson, who broke into the NFL in 1994 with Green Bay. "You can sit and feel sorry for yourself and let it get you down, or you can go out and do the things that you were doing before you found out you were sick."

The one thing Johnson had working for him was his wife and two children. They were there all the time, watching cartoons with him and giving him the "Oh, Dad" comments when he flipped television stations just to get an occasional glimpse of a football game. He never watched too long, though, because it was frustrating.

"Just by having kids, that takes your mind off a lot of things and makes you feel a lot better," Johnson said with a smile.

Talking about football makes Johnson smile even wider, and that smile hasn't left his face working out this week.

Catching swing passes out of the backfield in 7-on-7 drills, Johnson has looked very quick, apparently just as fast as before the cancer.

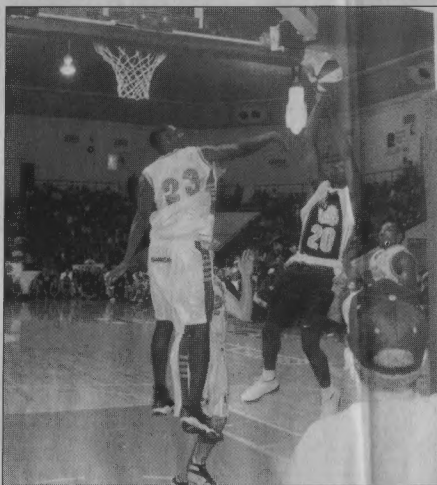
"He has got some serious wheels," quarterback Kent Graham said. "He'll hit that hole 150 mph and he'll break some big ones. It's exciting to see him out there."

The next step will be full contact and that first big hit.

"I'm waiting to give one," Johnson said. "I love contact and I just can't wait to go out there and lower my head and punish somebody."

Johnson is still six pounds under his playing weight of 212, but he expects to be ready for the start of the season.

"I can't wait for that day when I run through the tunnel in my blue uniform and play and I hear 'LeShon Johnson on the carry.' I can't wait for it to happen."



Left, No. 23 Omm's of the Shore Cats defends against opponent from the Pennsylvania Valley Dogs. Right, Dan Kreft looks on as teammate No. 24 Rocky Walla, drives to the basket against defender.



Shore Cats Home Schedule

May 28 vs. Washington
June 4 vs. Kansas
June 8 vs. Brooklyn
June 11 vs. Atlanta
June 13 vs. Pennsylvania
June 20 vs. Raleigh
June 24-26 Playoffs Begin

Weekday game time 7:35 p.m. Sunday at 6:05 p.m.

Shore Cats Basketball:

Asbury Park's Cats are a Shore thing

Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

Hot fun in the summertime returns to the Jersey Shore. In its second season, the Shore Cats of the United States Basketball League are bringing much needed excitement and a burst of energy to the once-upon-a-time fabled Asbury Park Convention Center, which the team calls its home.

Coached by Hall of Famer Rick

Barry and assistant, Clifford Ray, who was an assistant coach with the New Jersey Nets and the Washington Wizards, the Shore Cats are looking to improve last year's 14-12 season. Already on a seven-game winning streak, the Cats appear to be off to a good season. The Shore Cats surprised everyone when they upset the Pennsylvania Valley Dogs, coached by former NBA great Darryl Dawkins, 111-104 in the team's season opener, which seems to have set

the tone of play.

"Inside we're more talented than last year," said Ira Bowman, the sole survivor of the debuting Shore Cat's team. Bowman, who was fifth in the league in scoring averaging 12.7 points per game last year, is feeling this new and improved team.

Appreciating the fan support they've received, the Shore Cats led the league in attendance last season. A Spike Lee joint - "Do the Right Thing" actor Danny Aiello was some-

what of a mainstay in the house last year and has made his presence known this season. The team wishes to encourage families to continue to come out and participate in the fun attractions and free-bees lined up for the kids. Family fun at affordable prices - \$8 a ticket - and the team is active in community fundraisers, too. For further information and to purchase tickets contact the Shore Cats public relations and media director Todd Craig at (732) 922-1090.

Van Gundy deserves vote of confidence

By Greg Moore
Sports Editor

The impact of Allan Houston's dramatic game-winning shot against the Heat cannot be overstated. Its ramifications are manifold. It sent the legendary Pat Riley home for the summer to work on his tan. It perhaps marked a watershed moment in the career of Houston who may yet develop into the consistent force which Knick brass hoped when they gave him \$56,000,000 a few years ago. And "The Shot" also earned Knick coach Jeff Van Gundy the well deserved right to come back for at least another season.

Far from perfect Van Gundy has made his fair share of coaching miscues this year. His disapproval of Marcus Camby for Charles Oakley trade was evident early in the season. Van Gundy's consequential decision to limit Camby's minutes hurt the team and revealed a lack of sound judgment. It was Camby who played an instrumental role in the Knick's late playoff push, a push which would have been averted if Van Gundy would have shown more confidence in Camby. In addition, some of Van Gundy's substitution patterns have been questionable. In this regard, Van Gundy's penchant for removing hot players from games can be unerving. And his dependence on aging Patrick Ewing as the offensive focal point over more spry scorers such as Houston and Latrell Sprewell made for a predictable and sputtering offense.

That said, Van Gundy is a valuable asset to the Knick organization, and if he is given the ax, he will be unemployed for all of one day. Over the past couple of years, Van Gundy has exhibited several skills which has set him apart from many coaching contemporaries. First, he has demonstrated the ability to earn the trust and respect of modern day professional athletes. He has accomplished this on the strength of a Herculean work ethic and impeccable preparation skills which enhances his credibility with his players. When Van Gundy makes a suggestion in the heat of battle, his players are more prone to listen than they realize that most of his suggestions are the by-product of hours watching game tapes. Secondly, Van Gundy knows his players and shares a special bond with many of them.

If Van Gundy is replaced, there is no guarantee that his replacement (including Phil Jackson) will ever engender the type of loyalty currently enjoyed by Van Gundy. Lastly, for the second straight year, Van Gundy has defeated the great Pat Riley. In defeating the Miami Heat, The Knicks became only the second Eighth seed to defeat a number one seed in the playoffs. That should count for something.

Currently, Van Gundy is recognized as one of the bright young coaches in the coaching fraternity. This fact provides Van Gundy with significant job security in basketball circles-a circle which hopefully encompasses the New York Knicks organization.

EDITORS QUESTION OF THE WEEK

By advancing the Knicks to the second round of the playoffs, has Jeff Van Gundy earned the right to keep his job?

Let your voice be heard? Please send all comments to Gregory Moore at Cit News Publications, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07061. Fax comments to 908-764-3761 or e-mail them to Gilynews@7@aol.com. We will publish responses in the following edition of City News.

Union teen represents Special Olympics on Cereal box

UNION, N.J. (AP)—Breakfast is about to become a lot more interesting for Nicolas and Sofia Filimonczuk of Union.

Later this month or in the beginning of next month, a familiar face will be staring at them from the cover of the Wheaties box — their daughter, Nancy Filimonczuk.

The 19-year-old swimmer will represent Special Olympics New Jersey on a limited-edition cereal box cover that will be sold at ShopKite stores in New Jersey and possibly the New York metropolitan area.

"It's exciting," Nicolas Filimonczuk said. "We're going to buy many boxes. I don't know how many, but many."

Nancy Filimonczuk, born with Down's Syndrome, was chosen to appear on the cereal because she is a champion swimmer. She won two medals at the 1993 Special Olympics World Summer Games, and will be one of 68 New Jerseyans who will compete at the 1999 Games this summer in North Carolina. The games are expected to draw 7,000 athletes from 185 countries.

Michigan, New York, and Texas have put groups of Special Olympic athletes on the cereal box. When New Jersey decided to do it, Special Olympic officials decided they wanted to put only one athlete on the cover.

"Our point was to be consistent with other Wheaties boxes," said M. Edelson, president of Special Olympic New Jersey.

He said officials picked Nancy of the pool of New Jersey athletes who go to the Games, and that they were looking for someone who had been competing on one sport and was dedicated to it.

Nancy has been swimming since she was 8 years old. These days, trains several days a week.

"She has developed herself into elite athlete," Edelson said.

"It's my favorite sport," Nancy said. "I want to be the best I can be."

She said she planned on autographing covers, and wants to give her other friends and one to Gov. Chris